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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/683,533 | 10/10/2003 | Antonio Codatto | 263-93US (P2-5003) | 2617 |
| 570 | 7590 | 04/07/2005 | | |
| | | | EXAMINER | |
| | | | CRANE, DANIEL C | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3725 | |

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/683,533 | CODATTO, ANTONIO |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Daniel C Crane | 3725 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,4,7,9 and 12-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2,3,5,6,8,10,11 and 15-17 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/16/04.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

BASIS FOR REJECTIONS

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS ON FORMAL MATTERS

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Referencing “it” renders the subject matter indefinite because a question of clarity results as to what “it” refers to.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS OVER PRIOR ART

Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Booth (W0 96/21529) or Tyler (5,461,893), either one further in view of Fornerod (4,772,801). Booth and Tyler disclose the basic claimed process and apparatus where an element can be bent by imaging the bending process, converting the image to X and Y (or Z) coordinates and proceeding to successively bend the element until the correct bend is imparted to the element. All the operations are based on the image of the element with multiple comparisons being made between the different bends until the correct bend is obtained. With reference to

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Booth, see page 8, second full paragraph, the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10 and the first paragraph of page 13 where the sensed condition via a imaging system can be made as a series of operations with any springback being taken into account until the final correct sensed condition is obtained by the corrective bending operations. Tyler similarly shows such an operation as discussed in columns 9-11 where springback is addressed with the X and Y coordinates of the element being imaged to read the amount of bend and successively bending the element to element the springback and impart a correct bend in the element (see the first full paragraph of column 11). Booth and Tyler do not indicate that the angle of the bend is sensed and used during the bending operation. However, this is known in the art as evidenced by Fornerod where an angle encoder 13 (see the Abstract and column 2, lines 25-53, and the paragraph bridging columns 2 and 3) can be used in conjunction with an imaging system 1, thus, accurately providing a bend in the element 9. It would have been obvious to the skilled artisan at the time of the invention to have modified either one of Booth or Tyler's method and apparatus by further providing an angle measurement mechanism as taught by Fornerod so as to produce an accurate bend in the element by virtue of the combined imaging and angular measurement system. Visual comparison is inherent in that the image is displayed and an operator controls the imaging system.

INDICATION OF ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 15-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

PRIOR ART CITED BY EXAMINER

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

RESPONSE BY APPLICANT(S)

Applicant(s) response to be fully responsive and to provide for a clear record must specifically point out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references, both those references applied in the objections and rejections and those references cited in view of the state of the art in accordance with 37 CFR 1.111 (a), (b) and (c).

INQUIRIES

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner D. Crane whose telephone number is **(571) 272-4516**. The examiner's office hours are 6:30AM-5:00PM, Tuesday through Friday. The examiner's supervisor, Mr. Derris Banks, can be reached at **(571) 272-4419**.

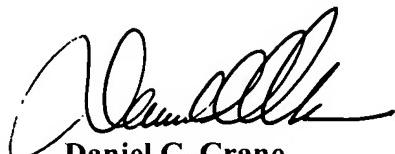
Documents related to the instant application may be submitted by facsimile transmission at all times to Fax number (703) 872-9306. Applicant(s) is(are) reminded to clearly mark any

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transmission as "DRAFT" if it is not to be considered as an official response. The Examiner's
Fax number is (571) 273-4416.

DCCrane
April 1, 2005



Daniel C. Crane
Primary Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 3725